



New England Fishery Management Council

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 10, 2016
TO: Risk Policy Working Group
FROM: Fiona Hogan, Council Staff
SUBJECT: **SSC discussion of draft risk policy roadmap**

At their November 23, 2015 meeting, the SSC received an update on the Risk Policy Working Group's progress on the Risk Policy Roadmap (Roadmap), which was followed by a brief discussion. The SSC has not summarized their discussion. This staff memo does not serve as a substitute for that summary but merely as an update to aid the Working Group discussions.

The Roadmap was well received by the SSC but a number of concerns/questions were raised. These included:

- A lack of a systematic structure that would help the Council decide what kind of risk it would be willing to take or avoid.

A model could be used to identify the tradeoffs, combined with identified priorities, to address different objectives. Step 2 in the action plan requires the PDT to conduct preliminary work towards a MSE. The PDTs could rely on the risk policy matrix to think about hazards, such as recruitment failure.

- Current status of the NEFSC MSE working group.

At the time of the meeting, limited information was known regarding the capacity of the NEFSC to contribute to these efforts.

- The Roadmap was perceived as a way of modeling risk and not a risk policy. The example provided was an economic one, where an outcome and expected value could be derived with a distribution around that value. The value and variability could be used to select one outcome over another.

An SSC member considered that further development of the risk policy would continue as the finer details were worked through.

- Modifying the matrix template so it would combine a description of what the component is and the management responses.

- Immersion concept – it was considered short-sighted to take Punt’s best strategy and claim it’s an emerging thing; it has existed under different names for a while. MSE may not always be the solution to a problem, e.g. when there is no operating model available. In some cases errors may exist, the source of which could be unknown, and therefore MSE would not be able to address it. The policy was also thought to be missing assigning probabilities for operating models.

It was thought some of these concerns could be addressed when doing a generic or specific MSE.

The matrix template was considered an evolving document, however, the RPWG may only meeting 1 or 2 more times before making final recommendations to the Council. Further work could be completed in the future with the working group potentially being reconvened.